



2329 Fairview East

Seattle, Washington 98102

Phones: EA 5-1132 or EA 9-1517

NUMBER 7

MAY 25, 1964

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 8 P.M. TUESDAY JUNE 2
AT AQUA BARN, 1230½ WESTLAKE NORTH

A highlight of this important membership meeting will be an illustrated report (colored slides) showing some of the "amenity potentials" of Lake Union and adjacent shorelands. It will be presented by the Citizens Planning Council (not to be confused with the official City Planning Commission). Our Association is a member of CPC. The slides dramatically illustrate the fact that making waterfront areas agreeable and pleasant places to live, work, visit and do business can benefit everyone.

The agenda will also include information reports and discussion of (1) steps taken to organize a Lake Union Association (similar to the Downtown Association) to be made up of all property owners on the lake, (2) the recent rezoning of the shorelands which can mean new and needed houseboat moorages this summer, (3) developments in the sewer construction program as it affects floating homes and other marine establishments, (4) the next steps in our 1964 "Beautification Campaign," and (5) what needs to be done to complete our organizational objectives.

This promises to be a lively and interesting evening. Please be prompt as the illustrated report on the lake begins at 8 p.m. A special invitation is being issued to houseboat folk who are not yet members of the Association. This is our first meeting in the Aqua Barn, a floating auditorium and asset to our community. It is located just across Westlake Avenue North from the Shell Oil Building. There is plenty of off-street parking.

CITY COUNCIL REMOVES ZONING NOOSE FROM AROUND OUR NECK: One of our main objectives for 1964 is now an accomplished fact. On May 11 the City Council, by unanimous vote, accepted the drastic rezoning proposals contained in the City Planning Commission's "Lake Union Report." This means that houseboats and other residences are now a conforming usage of 85 per cent instead of only 15 per cent of Lake Union shorelands. A number of houseboat moorages which have been withering away into slum status are now "legal" and hopefully will be upgraded. Many previously restricted areas are now open to floating homes. The zoning "box score" now has houseboats "legal" on: (1) All of Westlake Ave. N., (2) all of Fairview Ave. E. from Newton St. (Coast & Geodetic Survey Base) to the University Bridge, where the new Commercial General Zone connects with the Residence Waterfront Zone on Portage Bay, and (3) Northlake Way between State Waterways 17 & 19, and 20 & 21. This rezoning means that the legal obstacles to new moorages have been removed. The final decision, of course, rests with the property owners.

NEW ZONING CLASSIFICATION FOR THE LAKE IS NOW UNDER STUDY: Creation of an entirely new zoning classification (Commercial Waterfront) for all of Lake Union is one of many proposals contained in the thoughtful and comprehensive program presented to the City Council and the City Planning Commission by the Citizens Planning Council. It is now under study. Aspects of this report, the result of almost three years work by the CPC's Lake Union Committee, will be dealt with at the June 2 membership meeting and in subsequent issues of the NEWS LETTER. The objective of this new zone, the CPC says, would be to "encourage specific water-oriented uses and to discourage others." The report adds that the new zone "should grant outright permitted uses of apartments, houseboats, motel and boatel, restaurants and cocktail lounges and marine facilities ...It should be sufficiently broad in scope and interpretation to accommodate such uses as the Lake Union Drydock, sand and gravel operations, and institutional uses."

In proposing "an intensive analysis of the houseboat situation," the CPC recommends that in drafting future codes, ordinances, etc. floating homes "be considered independent of other residential uses." It also makes the following interesting suggestions in respect to houseboats: "(1) Lot coverage should be developed on a dock or moorage basis, rather than determined separately for each houseboat. (2) Housing and building codes appropriate for houseboats should be developed. (3) Technological improvements in sewage disposal, such as incineration of wastes, should be permissible. (4) Moorage or cluster servicing of utilities should be encouraged and individual or direct servicing should be discouraged." In another section the CPC recommends that "visual standards for houseboats" be developed.

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URGENT! PLEASE TURN IN INIT. 215 PETITIONS JUNE 2: It is important that all names on the Init. 215 petitions (Outdoor Recreation) be turned in at the June 2nd membership meeting. As a minimum, we should cover all our moorages and give every member, who is a registered voter, an opportunity to sign. The measure simply means that, if enacted by the voters, all future unclaimed gasoline tax refunds on fuel used for boating purposes would be used by state and local governments to acquire waterfront (salt and fresh) park property. Now, this money goes into the highway fund.

HERE'S HOW ALL OF US CAN BECOME "CONCERNED MEMBERS": In spite of gloomy predictions (remember two years ago?) to the contrary, an overwhelming majority of houseboat folk belong to the Association. For one reason or another, a scattered minority have not yet joined. They need the protection of the Association and, of course, the Association needs them. These organizational weak spots can be eliminated if every member becomes a "concerned member" by doing one or more of the following: (1) Display a Membership Decal. (2) Speak to others about the accomplishments of our mutual benefit organization. (3) Make membership a condition for the rental or sale of a houseboat. (4) Turn in the names of newcomers to your moorage. And (5) Ask non-members to join.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS CONTRIBUTE \$52.00 TO THE "WAWONA" FUND: There wasn't room for it (and a lot of other things) in the last NEWS LETTER but those at the February 28 membership meeting contributed \$52.00 towards the fund to preserve the historic, three-masted schooner "Wawona" as a living, maritime museum. It was the first collection we have ever taken up, and it was done after a unanimous vote. Those who have not contributed can do so by sending donations to "SAVE OUR SHIPS," Pier 70, Seattle, Washington 98101.

NEWS NOTES: After more than a quarter of a century as "Mr. Fixit" for houseboats, Henry Dudley has retired. His business (logs, stringers, decking, and almost everything else to do with a floating home) has been taken over by Norwood A. (Norm) Young, 2203 Fairview Avenue East, EA 5-8134. Mr. Young and his wife, Maida Jean, are charter members of the Association. She serves on the Board of Directors....Professors from eastern universities on temporary assignment to the U of W continue to ask for houseboats. A zoologist and wife very much want a one-bedroom, furnished floating home for lease from June through December. Who can help?....The City Engineering Department has asked the Corps of Army Engineers for a permit to construct 11 emergency sanitary sewer outfalls into Lake Union and Portage Bay. Part of the new sewer project, and needed in case the pumping system conks out....All through the winter we had a steady membership growth. There were 12 new members in October, 17 in November, 8 in December, 13 in January, 19 in February, 6 in March, and 9 in April. But only 3 (ugh) so far in May. Can it be that we are in a summer slump and it isn't even summer?....Historical note: There is considerable evidence that our Houseboat Colony actually started when David Denny established his saw mill on Lake Union in 1882. The oldest known houseboat still afloat was the "Hostess House" at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition in 1909. It is at 1409½ N.E. Boat Street and is owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Butler. Does anyone know of an older floating home?

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FLOATING HOMES ASSOCIATION INC.
2329 Fairview Avenue East
Seattle, Washington 98102